



For Immediate Release
April 29, 2009

Abstracts Chosen for 2009 HIV/AIDS Implementers' Meeting

More than 340 Abstracts Accepted Representing Research from Five Continents

Washington, D.C. – The organizers of the 2009 HIV/AIDS Implementers' Meeting announced today that 345 abstracts have been selected to be presented at the upcoming meeting in Windhoek, Namibia. Reflecting the global scope of the response to the AIDS epidemic, the abstracts represent research spanning five continents. Through their presentations, authors will share information that will directly impact the future of HIV/AIDS program implementation.

The conference theme is "Optimizing the Response: Partnerships for Sustainability." Reflecting this theme, presentations will focus on what program implementers are doing to meet the challenges affecting the scale-up of HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care. The meeting's six research tracks cut across all subject matter areas of HIV/AIDS programming and include:

- Responding to Challenges in HIV Prevention;
- Women and Children;
- Effective HIV Prevention, Treatment, Care and Support Programs for Men who Have Sex with Men, Drug-users, People in Prisons, and People in Sex Work;
- Evolving Challenges in Treatment, Laboratory, Care and Support Services;
- Performance-based Programming and Systems-strengthening; and
- Cross-cutting Issues.

"We look forward to engaging with host governments, multilateral organizations and other partners to collectively share successes and respond to challenges in HIV programming," said Michele Moloney-Kitts, Assistant Coordinator for the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). "This exchange will better position host countries to address their HIV epidemics over the long term."

"Investments and efforts by international health partnerships in the fight against HIV and AIDS are beginning to show tremendous impact in many countries," said Professor Michel Kazatchkine, Executive Director of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. "In order to make this sustainable and scale up our efforts even more, it is important for all partners to meet regularly and share best practices and experiences on HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care."

"Bold actions are needed to help countries reach universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support," said Michel Sidibé, Executive Director of The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS). "Making connections between implementing partners and sharing ideas to solutions will accelerate progress towards making universal access a reality."

From June 10-14, more than 1,500 implementers from around the world will gather at the conference to share best practices and lessons learned during the implementation of multi-sectoral HIV/AIDS programs with a focus on optimizing the impact of prevention, treatment and care programs; enhancing program quality; promoting coordination among partners; and encouraging innovative responses.

"Children are no longer the missing face of the world's response to AIDS. This conference will be an opportunity to learn from countries where PMTCT and pediatric treatment have been scaled up," said Jimmy Kolker, Chief of HIV and AIDS for UNICEF. "Where implementation is lagging behind the evidence, such as mothers' testing and early infant diagnosis, we must accelerate action. This meeting will also focus renewed attention on prevention among youth and protection for the children made vulnerable by AIDS."

"The financial crisis poses major risks to the sustainability of AIDS financing," said Debrework Zewdie, Director of the Global HIV/AIDS Program at the World Bank. "So it is now more important than ever that we are coming together to help support countries in their efforts to strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of prevention, treatment, and care in their programs."

"As a global community, we have done relatively well scaling up HIV prevention, treatment, care and support. However, roughly two thirds of those in danger of their lives are still not accessing antiretroviral therapy," noted Dr Kevin De Cock, Director of the World Health Organization HIV/AIDS Department. "The emergency of HIV/AIDS is by no means over, even if we have managed to blunt some of it with our interventions."

The meeting will be hosted by the Government of Namibia, and co-sponsored by PEPFAR; the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; UNAIDS; UNICEF; the World Bank; the World Health Organization; and the Global Network of People Living with HIV.

To view an agenda for the 2009 HIV/AIDS Implementers' Meeting or to learn more about the meeting, please visit www.hivimplementers.org.

###

Media Contacts:

Jennifer Peterson (PEPFAR) +1-202 663 2708, PetersonJL@state.gov
Andrew Hurst (Global Fund) +41 22 791 8672, andrew.hurst@theglobalfund.org
Sophie Barton-Knott (UNAIDS) +41 22 791 1697, bartonknotts@unaids.org
Kate Donovan (UNICEF) +1 212 326 7452, kdonovan@unicef.org
Carol Hooks (World Bank) +1 202 458 9346, chooks@worldbank.org
Saira Stewart (WHO) +41 22 791 2511, stewart@who.int

Information about the sponsors of the meeting:

The U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) was launched in 2003 to combat global HIV/AIDS, and is the largest commitment by any nation to combat a single disease in history. Working in partnership with host nations, over ten years PEPFAR plans to support treatment for at least 3 million people, prevention of 12 million new infections, and care for 12 million people, including 5 million orphans and vulnerable children. For more information, please visit www.PEPFAR.gov.

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria is a unique global public/private partnership dedicated to attracting and disbursing additional resources to prevent and treat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. This partnership between governments, civil society, the private sector and affected communities represents a new approach to international health financing. The Global Fund works in close collaboration with other bilateral and multilateral organizations to supplement existing efforts dealing with the three diseases. For more information about the Global Fund, please visit www.theglobalfund.org.

UNAIDS is an innovative joint venture of the United Nations, bringing together the efforts and resources of the UNAIDS Secretariat and ten UN system organizations in the AIDS response. The Secretariat headquarters is in Geneva, Switzerland—with staff on the ground in more than 80 countries. Coherent action on AIDS by the UN system is coordinated in countries through UN theme groups, and joint programs on AIDS. UNAIDS' Cosponsors include UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC, ILO, UNESCO, WHO and the World Bank. Visit the UNAIDS Web site at www.unaids.org.

UNICEF is on the ground in over 150 countries and territories to help children survive and thrive, from early childhood through adolescence. The world's largest provider of vaccines for developing countries, UNICEF supports child health and nutrition, safe water and sanitation, quality basic education for all boys and girls, and the protection of children from violence, exploitation, and HIV/AIDS. UNICEF is funded entirely by the voluntary contributions of individuals, businesses, foundations and governments. For more information, please visit www.unicef.org.

The World Bank is a vital source of financial and technical assistance to developing countries. The Bank provides low-interest loans, interest-free credits and grants to developing country governments for a wide array of purposes that include investments in education, health, infrastructure, private sector development, agriculture, and environmental and natural resource management. In HIV/AIDS, World Bank support helps countries prevent HIV infections while scaling up treatment, care and mitigation support to all who need it. The Bank emphasizes using evidence to develop sound strategies that focus on results. For more information on the World Bank's response to HIV/AIDS, please visit www.worldbank.org/aids.

The World Health Organization (WHO) is the directing and coordinating authority for health within the United Nations system. It is responsible for providing leadership on global health matters, shaping the health research agenda, setting norms and standards, articulating evidence-based policy options, providing technical support to countries and monitoring and assessing health trends. For more information, please visit www.who.int.

The Global Network of People living with HIV (GNP+) is a global network for and by people living with HIV. GNP+ advocates to improve the quality of life of people living with HIV. The central theme for the work of GNP+ is Reclaiming Our Lives! GNP+ programs are organized under four platforms of action: Sexual and reproductive health and rights; HIV Prevention; Human rights; and Empowerment. For more information, please visit www.gnpplus.net.